

## Antler Restriction Regulations

### Tagging Option for Antlerless Deer Hunters

An antlerless deer hunter, with an unused antlerless kill tag for the DMU in which hunting **and** an unused antlered deer license (firearm or combination) appropriate for the season in which hunting, may tag a male antlerless deer with the antlered deer license. **Note:** Both licenses must be in the hunter's possession at the time of harvest. All deer must be immediately tagged.

A male antlerless deer means a male deer without antlers or with antlers where the longest antler extends less than three inches above the skull.

### "No Spike" Regulation For Archery and Firearm Hunters

Persons hunting South Fox Island (DMU 245), Drummond Island (DMU 117) and DMU 135 are permitted to only take an antlered deer if it has two or more antler points on one side, each one or more inches in length. Your archery license, or combination license when used as an archery tag, is still valid for taking an antlerless deer in these three units.

### Experimental Deer Management Unit Regulations

Persons hunting in DMUs 045, 118, 122, 152, 155 and 252 are permitted to only take an antlered deer if it has three or more antler points on one side, each one or more inches in length. Your archery license, or combination license when used as an archery tag, is still valid for taking an antlerless deer in these units.

## Special Deer Hunts

### South Fox Island Deer Hunting

Deer hunting permits are available for South Fox Island during archery season from October 1-28 and/or firearm season beginning October 30 through November 26. For information, contact: DNR Operations Service Center, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601; 231-775-9727.

### North Manitou Island Hunts

Licenses for the archery, October 1-14, muzzleloading, October 15-20, and regular, October 21-November 7, deer hunting seasons will be awarded by lottery. The application deadline for the primitive seasons is August 15, 2003 and September 1 for the regular season. The application fee is \$25 per hunter. For information, contact the Park Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630; 231-326-5134.

### Shiawassee River State Game Area Deer Hunting

Contact the DNR Field Office (225 E. Spruce Street, St. Charles, MI 48655) at 989-865-6211. The deadline for application is September 10, 2003.

### Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting

Contact the SNWR (6975 Mower Rd., Saginaw, MI 48601) at 989-777-5930.

**Note:** There will **not** be an antlerless deer hunt at the Allegan State Game Area Farm Unit Refuge in 2003.

## Early Antlerless Firearm Deer Season in DMU 055

There will be an early antlerless firearm deer season on private land in DMU 055 in the Upper Peninsula. This season begins September 20, 2003, and runs through September 26, 2003. All deer hunters are required to wear Hunter Orange. See the 2003 Antlerless Deer Hunting Guide for details.

## Early Antlerless Firearm Deer Season in Special Regulation Counties

There will be an early firearm antlerless deer hunting season on private land in Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties. This season begins October 11, 2003, and runs through October 19, 2003. All firearm hunters must wear Hunter Orange. See the 2003 Antlerless Deer Hunting Guide for details.

**During both early firearm seasons, only antlerless deer on private land may be taken.** You must have permission from the landowner or leaseholder before hunting on private land and all recreational trespass laws are in effect. You may hunt with a bow and arrow or firearm. All firearm hunters must be 14 or older. You must have an unused antlerless deer license (or DMA permit) issued for the appropriate DMU to hunt deer during these seasons.

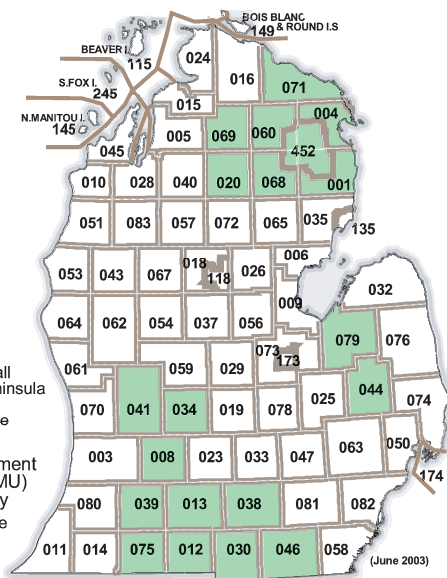
**Note:** DMA permits are not stand-alone licenses. To hunt deer with a DMA permit, you must have purchased a regular firearm, combination, archery or antlerless deer license for the season in which you are hunting.

## Late Firearm Antlerless Deer Season

A late antlerless deer season will take place on **private land** in some Lower Peninsula DMUs from December 22, 2003 through January 1, 2004. The DMUs that will be open are shaded on the map at right. Hunters must have a valid antlerless deer license (or DMA permit, see above) for one of the open DMUs with an unused kill tag issued in their name to participate in this hunt. Deer may be taken with a bow and arrow or firearm. The regular unit/land restrictions for antlerless licenses apply.

### Legend

- Open on Private Lands
- Closed Including all Upper Peninsula areas, not shown here
- Deer Management Unit (DMU) Boundary
- County Line



## Baiting Deer and Feeding Deer or Elk

“Baiting” is defined as putting out food materials for deer to attract, lure, or entice them as an aid in hunting.

“Feeding” is defined as placing food materials out that attract deer or elk for any other reason, such as recreational viewing.

**Deer baiting and the feeding of deer or elk is illegal in Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties.** In all other counties the rules for baiting and feeding are as follows:

### **Baiting: (Deer only. Elk baiting is illegal in Michigan.)**

- Baiting may occur only from October 1 to January 1.
- The bait material may be of any food type.
- The volume of bait at any hunting site cannot exceed two gallons.
- The bait must be dispersed over a minimum of a 10-foot x 10-foot area.
- The bait must be scattered directly on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- Food plots, naturally occurring foods, standing agricultural crops, or food placed as a result of using normal agricultural practices are not considered to be baiting.

### **Feeding for Recreational Viewing: (Deer and Elk.)**

- The volume of feed at any residence cannot exceed two gallons.
- The feed must be scattered or dispersed at least 100 yards from any area accessible to cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses, or captive cervidae and no more than 100 yards from a residence on land owned or possessed by that person.
- The feed must be scattered on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum daily volume allowed.
- Any type of food material can be used.
- Food plots, naturally occurring foods, standing agricultural crops, or food placed as a result of using normal agricultural practices are not considered to be feeding.

## Bovine Tuberculosis

In 2002, bovine TB was found in 51 white-tailed deer, all from northeastern Michigan (18,100 deer were tested statewide). The disease was found in 3 coyote, 6 raccoons and 1 red fox, all from the same region as deer.

Since 1995, a total of 449 white-tailed deer have been found positive from 106,028 deer surveyed. Two elk, 18 coyote, 7 black bear, 4 bobcat, 2 opossum, 8 raccoon and 3 red fox have tested positive, and the disease has been found in 25 beef herds, 5 dairy herds and 1 privately-owned cervid herd.

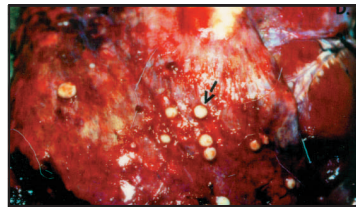
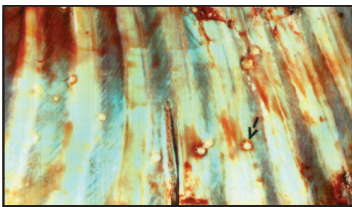
The DNR is again urging hunters to submit their deer for free TB testing this fall if it was taken in these counties in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula: Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Isabella, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montmorency, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon and Wexford.

As a part of Michigan's strategy to eliminate tuberculosis in deer and elk, hunting regulations in a seven-county area which includes Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle counties have been designed to reduce the deer population to help decrease possible transmission of the disease. ***Feeding and baiting is illegal in these counties.***

## What Hunters Should Look for When Field Dressing Deer

Deer with severe TB may have tan or yellow lumps lining the chest wall and in the lung tissue. If you see a deer with this type of infection, contact the DNR so the carcass and viscera, in addition to the head, can be examined.

Hunters taking deer in any of the counties listed above should turn in the deer's head for testing whether these signs of infection are present or not. Only 42 percent of the TB positive deer had lesions in the chest cavity or lungs that would be recognized as unusual by most hunters. (See photos below.)



*Tuberculosis-infected deer may have multiple pea-sized tan or yellow lumps on the inside of the ribcage (left) or inside or on the lungs (right). The lesions may be different shapes and sizes than shown.*

For more information, contact the DNR Rose Lake Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-373-9358, e-mail [Fierkej@michigan.gov](mailto:Fierkej@michigan.gov) or visit the Michigan Bovine TB Eradication Project's Web site at [www.bovinetb.com](http://www.bovinetb.com). ***Hunters may check their deer's TB lab results at this Web site.***

## Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a transmissible neurologic disease that was first diagnosed at a research facility in Colorado in 1967. CWD has been diagnosed in wild mule deer, white-tailed deer and elk. It also has been discovered in captive cervids in several states to the west and in Canada. CWD in deer and elk is characterized by emaciation, drooling, behavioral abnormalities and death. Currently, there is no reliable live animal testing available for diagnosing CWD, nor is there a treatment available.

### MI CWD Surveillance

Michigan has conducted surveillance for CWD on free-ranging white-tailed deer and on captive cervids. In 1998, the DNR tested 459 free-ranging white-tailed deer in the northeast Lower Peninsula for CWD. In addition, targeted surveillance has been conducted on cervids displaying symptoms of CWD. The majority of samples were obtained through hunter harvested animals. All samples thus far have tested negative for the disease. **CWD has not been found in Michigan.**

In light of CWD in Wisconsin, Michigan has increased CWD testing for free-ranging deer and elk. The DNR tested 4,347 deer and 113 elk for CWD in 2002. Michigan has developed a plan that targets locations of past and present deer research facilities, locations of privately owned cervid facilities and the appropriate sample needed for statistical analysis. The proposed surveillance of free-ranging animals will coordinate with efforts to increase surveillance of privately owned cervids by the Michigan Department of Agriculture. MDA will continue to identify and trace all cervids imported from Wisconsin and will conduct CWD surveillance on all death losses from those herds. Additional information can be found on the DNR Web site under Wildlife/Habitat, then Wildlife Disease.

### MI CWD Prevention

Michigan is taking several steps to prevent the occurrence of CWD in the state. The importation of captive cervids has been banned. A contingency plan to manage CWD in the event of its discovery in Michigan has been developed by veterinarians and biologists. The DNR and MDA are working to increase the level of public education and awareness of the disease through a chronic wasting disease report now available on the Internet, and by educating hunters at public meetings and appearances.

*What precautions should hunters take with the carcass of a deer or elk in areas where the disease has been found, such as Colorado, Wyoming or Wisconsin?*

According to public health officials, there is no evidence that CWD can be naturally transmitted to humans, or to animals other than deer and elk. Although there is no evidence that chronic wasting disease affects humans, the DNR advises hunters to take simple precautions.

- Wear rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses, minimize handling brain or spinal cord tissues and wash hands thoroughly afterwards.
- Hunters should bone out carcasses or at least avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen and lymph nodes of harvested animals.

(continued on page 22)

- Hunters should not handle or consume wild animals that appear sick or act abnormally, regardless of the cause.

*If a deer or elk is observed exhibiting clinical signs of CWD, particularly behavioral changes such as incoordination and loss of fear, contact the DNR Rose Lake Wildlife Disease Lab at 517-373-9358 or the nearest DNR Operations Service Center. After hours reports should be made to the DNR RAP line. (See page 3.)*

### **Hunters Importing Deer or Elk**

Hunters importing a mule deer, white-tailed deer or elk from Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming or the province of Saskatchewan are restricted to bringing into Michigan only deboned meat, antlers, antlers attached to a skull cap cleaned of all brain and muscle tissue, hides, upper canine teeth or a finished taxidermist mount.

In addition, if you are notified by another state or province that a deer or elk you brought into Michigan tested positive for CWD, you must contact the DNR Rose Lake Wildlife Disease Lab within two business days (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at 517-373-9358 and provide all information requested by the Lab.

**For Information relating to the Importation of Game from Canada, go to the USDA Web site: <http://www.usda.gov>**

### **Understanding West Nile Virus**

Although there has been no evidence of transmission occurring when blood from an infected bird contacts human skin, as a precaution against blood-borne pathogens (both viral and bacterial), hunters should wear rubber or latex gloves when handling, cleaning, and butchering dead animals. Tools used when processing gamebirds should be disinfected after use with bleach and then washed in soapy water and reused.

No humans have been infected by consuming the meat of an infected bird. However, the meat of birds should be cooked thoroughly; heating to an internal temperature of 170 to 180° F. Cooking to this temperature will kill West Nile Virus as well as other viruses and bacteria, eliminating any possible chance of infection.

If you see a turkey that appears to be acting abnormally (inability to fly, abnormal head posture, disoriented, having seizures), we may be interested in testing this bird for West Nile Virus. Please contact your local DNR Field Office to report sightings of sick or dead birds or mammals. More information and DNR Field Office locations are available online at [www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus](http://www.michigan.gov/westnilevirus).

### **Handling and Cooking Wild Game**

The Michigan Department of Community Health recommends proper food safety practices when cooking venison, as well as any other meat or poultry. Thoroughly cooking meat is important to reduce the likelihood of any bacterial disease. All meat, including venison, should be cooked until the meat is no longer pink and the juices run clear. If cooked according to the chart below, the likelihood of any disease transmission to individuals consuming this meat is extremely small.



**Tips for safe handling of wild game:**

- Hunters should not handle or consume wild animals that appear sick or act abnormally, regardless of the cause.
- Always wear heavy rubber or latex gloves when field dressing deer.
- If intestinal contents contact meat, consider the meat contaminated; cut off and discard affected area.
- Handle carcasses properly. Cool carcass rapidly in the field (bags of ice can hasten cooling). Age carcass at or below 40°F for no longer than 5-7 days. Hang birds by feet at less than 40°F for 2-3 days maximum.
- Hold meat at or below 40°F at all times. If you don't plan to consume or process meat within 3-5 days, freeze it. Thaw frozen meat only in the refrigerator, never at room temperature.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling meat and poultry.
- Sanitize equipment and work surfaces often during handling and processing meat and poultry with a bleach solution (1 Tbs. bleach to 1 gallon water).
- Use a meat thermometer to cook meat to proper internal temperatures (see chart). There are several types of meat thermometers available, which are easy to use and can be read instantly or remain in meat while it cooks. This helps ensure harmful bacteria are killed and meat is not overcooked. The color of meat is an unreliable indicator of doneness.
- For jerky, steam, boil or roast meat to 165°F using a meat thermometer prior to dehydrating. Dry at 130°-140°F until thoroughly dry. Jerky is properly dry when it cracks on bending but doesn't break.
- For sausage preparation, keep meat cold (under 40° F) during grinding process and ensure internal temperature reaches 165°F with meat thermometer during cooking.

Recommended Minimum Internal Cooking Temperature for Venison and Poultry	
Type of meat	Temperature (°F)
Ground venison, sausage, bologna	165°
Fresh venison (chops, steaks, roasts)	165°
Poultry	
Breast	170°
Whole bird	180°

## 2003-2004 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

Species	Bag Limit	Zone (page 7)	Season	
			Oct.	Nov.
<b>Black Bear</b>	1	See note 1	Sept. 10 - Oct. 26	
<b>Cottontail Rabbit and Varying Hare</b>	5 per day 10 combined possession	Statewide		
<b>Crow</b>	No Limit	Zone 1 Zones 2,3	Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Aug. 1-Sept. 30	
<b>Deer</b>	If you take 2 antlered deer, see pages 16-17 for minimum antler size requirements.			
<b>Youth Deer</b>	1	Statewide	Sept. 27 - 28	
<b>Early Firearm</b>	1 per kill tag	DMU 055 see page 18	Sept. 20 - 26	
<b>Early Firearm</b> (Special Regulation Counties)	1 per kill tag	See note 4		Oct. 11 - 19
<b>Special Disabled Firearm Hunt</b>	1 per kill tag	Statewide See page 15		Oct. 18 - 19
<b>Archery</b>	1 per kill tag	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14	
<b>Regular Firearm</b>	1 per kill tag	Statewide		
<b>Muzzleloading</b>	1 per kill tag	Zone 1 Zones 2,3		
<b>Late Firearm</b>	1 per kill tag	See note 5		
<b>Elk</b>	1	See note 1		
<b>Pheasant (male)</b> (Season Limit 8)	2 per day 4 possession	Zone 1 Zones 2,3 Zone 3		Oct. 10 - 31 Oct. 20 - Nov. 1
<b>Quail</b>	5 per day 10 possession	See page 29		Oct. 20 - Nov. 11
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>	See note 8	Statewide	Sept. 15 - Nov. 14	
<b>Squirrel</b> (black phase included)	5 per day 10 possession	Statewide		Sept. 15 - Nov. 1
<b>Fall Wild Turkey</b>	1 turkey per season	See note 9		Oct. 6 - Nov. 9
<b>Woodcock</b>	3 per day 6 possession	Statewide	Sept. 20 - Nov. 3	

No closed season on opossum, porcupine, weasel, red squirrel, skunk, starling, feral pigeons, English sparrows, taken year-round with a valid hunting license. See state parks and recreation area restrictions on page 46.



# Seasons and Bag Limits

Season Dates					
Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Notes
					1
	Sept. 15 - Mar. 31				
			Feb. 1 - Mar. 31		2
Oct. 11 - 19					4
Oct. 18 - 19					
	Dec. 1-Jan. 1				3
	Nov. 15 - 30				3
	Dec. 5 - 14				3
	Dec. 12 - 21				
	Dec. 22 - Jan. 1				5
	Dec. 9 - 16	Jan. 17 - 21			1
Oct. 10 - 31					
Oct. 20 - Nov. 14					6,7
	Dec. 1 - 15				
Oct. 20 - Nov. 11					
	Dec. 1 - Jan. 1				8
	Sept. 15 - March 1				
					9
					10

## Notes:

1. See the 2003 Bear Hunting Guide or 2003 Elk Hunting Guide for more information.
2. Crows may be taken outside the open season during hunting hours, in compliance with federal regulations, if these birds are causing a nuisance or creating a health hazard.
3. See page 17 for antler restriction regulations in DMUs 045, 117, 118, 122, 135, 152, 155, 245 and 252.
4. Antlerless deer on private land only in Special Regulation Counties. See page 18 for open DMUs.
5. Antlerless deer on private land only. See page 18 for open DMUs.
6. Zone 1 is open only in an area bordered by M-189 on the west and south of M-69 and US-2 from Iron River to Escanaba.
7. See December Pheasant Season map on page 29.
8. Zones 1 and 2: five per day/10 in possession. Zone 3: three per day/six in possession.
9. See the 2003 Fall Wild Turkey Guide for more information.
10. Shotguns must be plugged so they are capable of holding no more than three shells. A federal waterfowl stamp is not required to hunt woodcock. Dickinson Woodcock Research Unit closed to hunting of woodcock. See map on page 32.

geons, English sparrow, ground squirrel and woodchuck. These may be actions on page 46.

## Kill Tag

## DO NOT Obstruct the Bar Code

Kill tags have a pre-punched hole (shown in green). Depending on which tag you have, follow these directions to attach your kill tag.

### ● Pre-Punched Hole

#### ● 1-hole kill tag

Hole located above the bar code at top of the tag.



Insert a cord through the hole and tie it securely to the animal.



#### ● e-license kill tag

Hole located to the right of the bar code. Insert a cord through the hole and tie it securely to the animal.



Hole located to the right of the bar code. Insert a cord through the hole and tie it securely to the animal.

#### ● 2-hole kill tag

Holes located just above and below center of the tag.



1. Fold the tag in half along the perforation, with the bar code on the outside.



2. Insert a cord through the hole and tie it securely to the animal.



## Quality Deer Management

The DNR supports the voluntary implementation of Quality Deer Management on private lands in Michigan. QDM is an approach that restricts the buck harvest and sustains antlerless harvest to produce a more balanced sex ratio in the herd and a population in balance with the habitat. Successful implementation of QDM requires three factors:

- a) support of both landowners and hunters who would be affected,
- b) regulations that are understandable and enforceable,
- c) a sufficient trial period for the regulations to show an impact.

There are no QDM proposals being considered this year. When proposals are made, information will appear in this guide, public meetings will be held by the sponsoring group and a survey of landowners and hunters in the area will be scheduled.

When a clear majority (66 percent) of both hunters and landowners support implementation, the proposed regulations will be submitted for approval by the Natural Resources Commission. If approved, the proposed regulations will take effect the following deer hunting seasons, for a five-year period. Collection of biological data from 100 bucks and 200 antlerless deer each year is required by the sponsoring group to determine whether the

regulations are having the desired impact. The biological and social aspects of the regulations will be re-evaluated in the fourth year of the experiment.

For more information on the QDM process, contact the DNR Wildlife Division, Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7544; 517-373-1263, or log on to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

### Hunters, Learn to Identify “Button Bucks”

Each year many hunters harvest buck fawns, commonly called “button bucks” on antlerless deer licenses. Though perfectly legal, harvesting these deer reduces the number of bucks for the future. By learning the difference between adult does and buck fawns and observing these suggestions, hunters can make a conscious choice on whether to harvest a buck fawn.

- Do not take an antlerless deer that appears alone. Adult does rarely travel alone. Button bucks do travel alone.
- Wait until several deer are together; then harvest one of the larger antlerless deer.
- Look at body shapes of deer. Adult does are different in shape from juvenile deer. The mature doe is rectangular in shape with a long neck and face. Fawns are square shaped and have a short neck and face.
- If two juvenile deer are without an adult, one will probably be a button buck. Normally the young male is larger than the female and may be mistaken for an adult doe because of its larger size. Look at the head of the deer. A doe’s head normally is more rounded on top between the ears because a buck’s head is flattened by the base of the antlers.
- Look closely with binoculars for the antler bases on button bucks.
- Wait until the deer are standing or moving slowly. It is easier to identify sex and age when deer are not running or moving fast.
- Shoot with good visibility. Poor light or heavy cover make it difficult to determine sex and age.

## Natural Resources Boost Michigan’s Economy

- Michigan ranks 1st in the nation in licensed hunters (one million), who contribute \$2 billion annually to our economy. Some 2.6 million non-consumptive users contribute \$1.2 billion to our economy.
- Michigan ranks 4th in the nation in numbers of resident and nonresident anglers, who contribute \$4.3 billion annually to our economy.
- Michigan ranks 1st in the nation in the number of registered boats; recreational boating contributes \$2 billion annually to our economy.
- Michigan State Parks contribute \$250 million to our economy and \$200 million more in direct visitor spending to nearby retail businesses.
- Michigan DNR manages the largest dedicated state forest system in the nation; forest products industry and recreational users contribute \$12 billion and 200,000 associated jobs annually to our economy.

## Deer Cooperator Patches

Cooperator patches have been used since 1972 as an incentive for successful hunters to bring their deer to DNR offices and other check stations. By examining hunter harvested deer, wildlife biologists gain valuable biological information that can be used to manage Michigan's deer herd. Hunters wishing to receive a patch must check their deer by January 9, 2004. A deer head must be presented to receive a patch and patches will not be available by mail.



For a complete list of deer check stations including hours and dates of operation, visit the DNR Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). **Hunters are strongly urged to call ahead whenever possible to confirm hours and days of operation.**

## Youth Hunting Opportunities

### Youth Firearm Deer Season

There is a youth firearm deer season on September 27-28, 2003, on all lands in Michigan. Youths 12-16 years of age may take 1 deer during this special two-day season. Youths 12 and 13 years of age are restricted to archery-only hunting.

A deer license authorizing the youth to take a deer with a firearm (regular, combination), including antlerless license, or DMA permits, may be used if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. The youth must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter cannot possess or carry a firearm or bow and arrow and does not need a deer hunting license. Hunters may not use bait during this season. All youth hunters are required to wear Hunter Orange.

### Youth Waterfowl Hunt-Statewide

A youth waterfowl hunt in mid-September for properly licensed youth (ages 12-15) may be authorized by federal authorities. For details, including the date of this hunt, see the 2003-2004 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide or visit the DNR Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

### Youth Waterfowl Hunting on Managed Waterfowl Areas

For a complete listing of hunting opportunities available for youth (ages 12-16) on managed waterfowl areas, see the 2003 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt Application Guide.

## Black Bear, Elk and Wild Turkey

Regulations for hunting black bear, elk and wild turkey are detailed in separate publications available at license dealers, DNR Operations Service Centers and on the DNR Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## Small Game

A small game license entitles you to hunt rabbit, hare, squirrel, pheasant, ruffed grouse, woodcock, quail, woodchuck, crow, skunk, coyote (applies to Michigan residents only) and waterfowl (with a federal waterfowl stamp and Michigan waterfowl hunting license, if age 16 or older) during the open season. No license is required for a resident, resident's spouse or resident's children to hunt small game on the enclosed farmlands where they live, except a federal waterfowl stamp and state waterfowl license are required to hunt waterfowl.

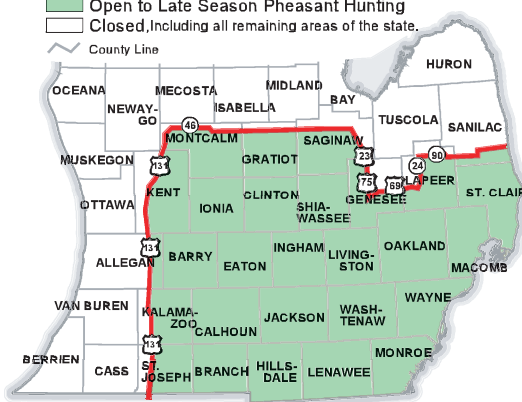
### Pheasant

The shaded area shown at right is open to pheasant hunting December 1-15 for the taking of male pheasants.

#### Late Season Pheasant Hunting Areas

##### Legend

- Open to Late Season Pheasant Hunting
- Closed, Including all remaining areas of the state.
- County Line



### Quail

Quail can be hunted only in Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Huron, Ingham, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Montcalm, Oakland, Saginaw, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola, Washtenaw and Wayne counties. All other counties are closed to quail hunting.

### Gamebird Hunting Preserves

All persons hunting on a licensed game bird hunting preserve must have a current Michigan small game license or gamebird hunting preserve license.

## Waterfowl

### Michigan Waterfowl Hunting License

Waterfowl hunters (age 16 and older) are required to purchase a Michigan waterfowl hunting license in addition to a small game license. For information on waterfowl seasons, bag limits and other regulations, see the 2003-2004 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Guide (available Sept. 10) and the 2003 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt brochure (available Aug. 1).

### Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp

This stamp is required for all waterfowl hunters 16 and older, including people hunting on their own enclosed farmland. Federal waterfowl stamps are not required for hunting woodcock, rails and snipe. The federal stamp must be signed across its face with your name in ink. The stamps are available at post offices and some Michigan license dealers.

## Early September Canada Goose Hunting

**Dates:** September 1-10 in the Upper Peninsula and Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties (except areas noted below). September 1-15 in the Lower Peninsula except Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties (except areas noted below).

**Open Hunt Areas:** Statewide, excluding some wildlife areas and portions of some state parks and recreation areas. See map at right and additional information that follows.

**(1) All or portions of the following areas are open September 2 through September 10:**

Brimley S.P.	Laughing Whitefish Falls S.S.	Tahquamenon Falls S.P.
Craig Lake S.P.	McLain S.P.	Van Riper S.P.
Fayette S.P.	Palms Book S.P.	Wagner Falls S.S.
Indian Lake S.P.	Porcupine Mountains S.P.	

**(2) All or portions of the following areas are open September 2 through September 15:**

Cheboygan S.P.	Ludington S.P.	Sterling S.P.
Fisherman's Island S.P.	Metamora-Hadley R.A.	Sturgeon Point S.P.
Fort Custer R.A.	Rifle River R.A.	Wilderness S.P.
Hoeft S.P.	Seven Lakes S.P.	Yankee Springs R.A.
Island Lake R.A.	Silver Lake S.P.	
Leelanau S.P.	South Higgins Lake S.P.	

**(3) Portions of the following areas are open September 1 through September 15:**

Bald Mountain R.A.	Ionia R.A.	Proud Lake R.A.
Bay City R.A.	Lake Hudson R.A.	Sleepy Hollow S.P.
Brighton R.A.	Negwegon S.P.	Thompson's Harbor S.P.
Grand Mere S.P.	Ortonville R.A.	Waterloo R.A.
Highland R.A.	Pinckney R.A.	
Holly R.A.	Pontiac Lake R.A.	

State Parks (S.P.), Scenic Sites (S.S.), and Recreation Areas (R.A.).

**Contact your local DNR Parks and Recreation or Wildlife office for detailed maps and information.**

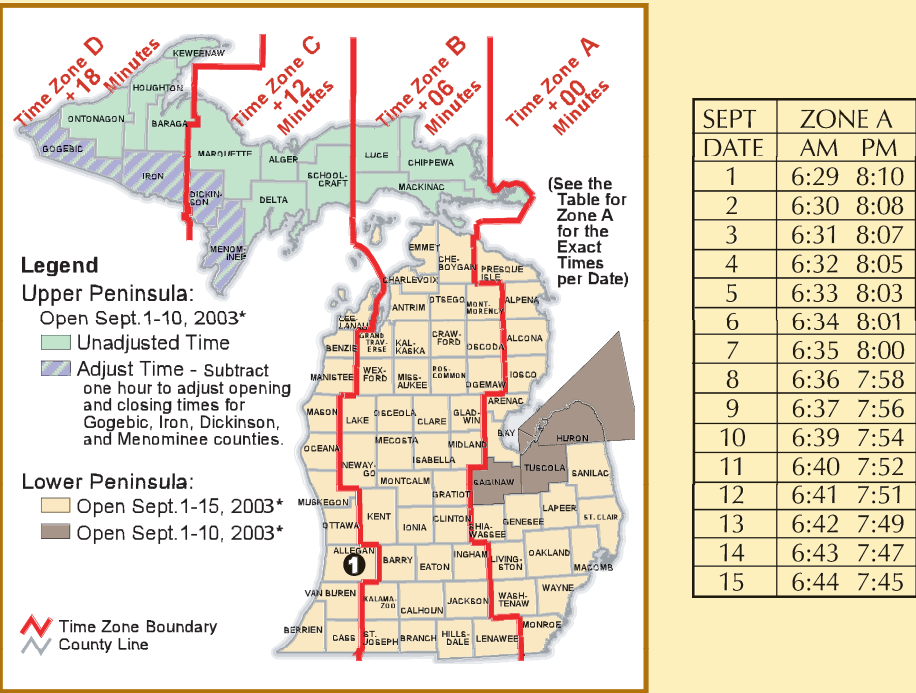


**Daily Limit:** 5 Canada geese daily, except Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron counties have a daily bag limit of 2 geese.

**Possession Limit:** Twice the daily limit of Canada geese.

**Hunting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset (See table below).

- 1 The early September season is closed within the Fennville Farm, Bravo and Highbanks units of the Allegan SGA (see map below).



**Saginaw, Tuscola and Huron County Experimental Area**

There is a reduced bag limit during the September goose season in Saginaw, Tuscola or Huron counties, including the adjacent waters of Saginaw Bay (see map above). The adjacent waters of Saginaw Bay means those lands and waters easterly and southerly of a line due north from the mouth of the Quanicasse River in Tuscola County to the intersection with (and follows) the line that runs northeasterly from the mouth of the Saginaw River and passes one mile north of the Charity Islands to the international boundary with Canada—and north of a line beginning at the intersection of the Huron-Sanilac county line with the Lake Huron shoreline due east of the international boundary with Canada.



## Migratory Game Birds

### Harvest Information Program (HIP)

If you are planning to hunt any migratory birds (ducks, geese, woodcock, snipe, rails, etc.) in Michigan this fall, you **must** have a Harvest Information Program endorsement printed on your small game license. The HIP endorsement automatically is included with the purchase of every waterfowl hunting license. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated its intent to enforce this requirement throughout all 50 states. Persons who are hunting migratory birds without this endorsement can be fined.

The HIP survey is important to state and federal efforts to manage migratory birds. The HIP endorsement, which consists of the statement: "Migratory Bird Hunter—YES," is printed on your small game license when you answer the HIP survey questions. There is no cost for this endorsement. If the license dealer fails to ask you the HIP question, you can do any of the following to receive the endorsement:

- Ask the agent to reissue the license
- Visit the DNR e-license Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) and select item # 005—Migratory Bird Hunter
- Visit any DNR Operations Service Center.

